

**Memo of Record
Quality and Accountability Policy Group
Council on Postsecondary Education
May 22, 2006**

The Quality and Accountability Policy Group, a committee of the Council on Postsecondary Education, met May 22, 2006, at 8 a.m. at the Council office, Meeting Room B, in Frankfort, Kentucky. Chair Mark Wattier presided over the meeting

Policy group members present: Peggy Bertelsman, Phyllis Maclin, Joan Taylor, and Mark Wattier. Policy group member Walter Baker attended the Budget and Finance Policy Group that met at the same time as the Quality and Accountability Policy Group. Policy group member absent: Gene Wilhoit.

**Memo of Record
Corrections**

Mark Wattier asked that the March 2006 Memo of Record be corrected to reflect that Walter Baker attended the Budget and Finance Policy Group meeting that met at the same time as the Quality and Accountability Policy Group.

**National Survey of
Student
Engagement—KY
Conference on
Student Engagement**

Jim Applegate, CPE's vice president for academic affairs, discussed the upcoming Kentucky Conference on Student Engagement to be held May 23-24, 2006, at the Marriott Griffin Gate in Lexington. All public postsecondary institutions will send a team of faculty and staff to the conference. The independent sector is sending a team of four people. Sessions are designed for chief academic and student affairs officers. Institutions were encouraged to send a team of participants that address academic program design, assessment, planning, or student support service responsibilities. Conference sessions will focus on the use of NSSE and CCSSE (Community College Survey of Student Engagement) results to integrate student engagement findings into on-going assessment and improvement efforts. Research from the recently completed Documenting Effective Educational Practice (DEEP) project will be featured to identify conditions for

creating and sustaining student success. A copy of *Assessing Conditions to Enhance Educational Effectiveness: The Inventory for Student Engagement and Success* will be provided to each participating institution.

2006–08 Trust Fund Guidelines and Fund Distribution Priorities

Every public institution uses NSSE as statewide indicators. The Kentucky Community and Technical College System is starting to implement CCSSE. Northern Kentucky University and Western Kentucky University chose NSSE as indicators for performance funding. Data from NSSE goes directly to the institutions.

On April 24, 2006, House Bill 380 was enacted by the 2006 General Assembly. The bill authorized funding for three programs recommended by the Council. The Research Support Program received authorization for \$1.5 million of recurring funds in 2006-07 and an additional \$1.5 million of recurring funds in 2007-08 (for a total of \$3.0 million in year two). The Regional Stewardship Program received authorization for \$1.2 million of recurring funds in 2006-07 and an additional \$2.4 million of recurring funds in 2007-08 (for a total of \$3.6 million in year two). Finally, the Workforce Development/Transfer Program received authorization for \$300,000 of nonrecurring funds in 2006-07 and \$1.2 million of recurring funds in 2007-08.

Pursuant to action by the General Assembly regarding these three programs, the staff presented three sets of guidelines for Council action the CPE meeting later in the day: Research Support Program Guidelines, Regional Stewardship Program Guidelines, and Workforce Development/Transfer Program Guidelines.

Public university and Kentucky Community and Technical College System chief budget officers and chief academic officers were given several opportunities to review and comment on the guidelines during the development process. The draft guidelines also were discussed at the January 30 meeting of the Quality and Accountability Policy Group and the Research, Economic Development, and Commercialization Policy Group.

Peggy Bertelsman said it is disappointing that the grant process for the Regional Stewardship Program is not

**Workforce
Development/
Transfer Program**

more competitive. She suggested that institutions be asked to look at their counties and see what is needed and what is being done in their service area. She added that surveys be conducted with county constituencies, such as legislators, county administrations, and school superintendents. County and area needs should be identified and money awarded on a collaborative basis in the institutions' service areas.

In consideration of Ms. Bertelsman's comments, Mark Wattier asked if this portion of the Regional Stewardship Program Guidelines should be tabled and brought back in July after staff has an opportunity to review the guidelines.

The group agreed to table the discussion until the July CPE meeting, and Mr. Wattier made a motion at the CPE meeting to delay action on the stewardship initiative component of the Regional Stewardship Program Guidelines.

Kentucky's Public Agenda for Postsecondary and Adult Education recognizes the importance of workforce education and transfer from two-year to four-year postsecondary institutions to the economic well-being of its citizens. Specifically, it calls for better preparation of graduates to meet workforce needs through partnerships with business and industry, expanded capacity for student transfer to increase degree production, and increases in student financial aid to support transfer.

Council Data Policy

The KCTCS Campus Action Plan supports the Public Agenda, focusing on new and improved transfer opportunities through career pathways, ensuring employability skills are incorporated into KCTCS programs, and determining and meeting workforce needs through partnerships with local, regional, and statewide business, industry, and economic development agencies.

The Workforce Development/Transfer Program (WDTP) supports public postsecondary workforce education and transfer initiatives to create a workforce that stimulates business development, creates better jobs and a higher

standard of living, and facilitates Kentucky's transition to a knowledge-based economy. The program provides funding for faculty/staff positions, student scholarships, and infrastructure to support workforce education and transfer.

State funds for the program are appropriated to the Postsecondary Workforce Development Trust Fund for the KCTCS.

The information in the agenda item was reviewed and the group agreed to it as is.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects personally identifiable student information. Institutions are not permitted to disclose personally identifiable information without the consent of a student or parent of a minor student to individuals or organizations except under conditions and rules contained in federal law 20 U.S.C. 1232g and applicable federal regulations 34 CFR Part 99. One of the exceptions to the nondisclosure rule is that personally identifiable information may be released to "state and local educational authorities" for the purpose of auditing or evaluating postsecondary education programs. The Council is a state educational authority. FERPA rules for the protection of personally identifiable information apply equally to institutions that originate data and information and to state and local authorities such as the Council that receive information from institutions.

On March 21, 2005, the CPE approved a data access policy that detailed the procedures to follow in protecting and sharing confidential information from the Council's comprehensive database. On July 11, 2005, the Council received a copy of a letter written to Western Kentucky University by the Office of Family Compliance (OFC) in the U.S. Department of Education; that letter questioned some of the provisions of the data access policy.

The revision to the Council data policy to bring it into compliance with the OFC guidance and FERPA is the final step that needs to be taken before the Council staff can proceed with the collection of end-of-term grades.

KYVU Strategic Plan Review

Jim Applegate said staff is studying what needs to be done related to the policy in development of the P-16 database.

Myk Garn, CPE's academic affairs senior advisor, and Al Lind, CPE's vice president for information and technology and chief executive officer of the Kentucky Virtual University, discussed staff activities related to reviewing the KYVU mission, goals, and initiatives.

Continuing Progress in Developmental Education

In April staff responded to the June 2005 report of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Special Committee. The SACS report included 25 recommendations related to the mission, administration, and services of the KYVU. One conclusion of the SACS committee was the finding that, due to changes in technology, growing partner expertise and capability, and emerging opportunities and needs unforeseen when KYVU was established, there is "an evident need for KYVU to evolve." A comprehensive vision and mission for the KYVU was last approved by the Council in July 1998. Over the past few months the KYVU has conducted analysis and focus group sessions with over 100 eLearning experts from public, independent, and for-profit postsecondary education partners and numerous state agencies. Participants included online students and faculty using KYVU services, distance education, library, and academic administrators, as well as technology and teaching and learning leaders.

Over the next two months KYVU, working with a core strategic planning team comprised of representatives from KCTCS, Morehead State University, Office for Employee and Organizational Development, Kentucky Educational Television, CPE, KYVU, Education Professional Standards Board, and the University of Kentucky, will aggregate the input and recommendations from these multiple sources into a draft of the 2007-2010 KYVU strategic plan. The planning team will meet with the full Distance Learning Steering Team in May and June and the Distance Learning Advisory Committee in late June to review and refine the plan. The KYVU staff will work closely with the CPE Quality and Accountability Policy Group to prepare the final document for consideration by the Council at a meeting later this year.

NEXT MEETING

ADJOURNMENT

The group held a brief discussion regarding the continuing progress in developmental education, referring to the item in the May agenda book. The agenda item reports public institutions' actions to improve underprepared student success in college.

The group approved the recommendation that a task force be appointed to review issues related to developmental education and to improve developmental student success in college. This task force will be directed to focus on the postsecondary student experience. The following charge is proposed to guide the work of the task force:

The Postsecondary Developmental Student Success Task Force is charged with constructing a comprehensive plan for improving the outcomes of developmental education with accountability measures, goals, and timelines for improvement to be reviewed by the Council for implementation in 2007. To the extent possible, standards for institutional and state level services and outcomes for underprepared students should be identified based on national developmental education research.

Members will include representatives from institutional academic affairs, developmental education, and assessment areas. The task force will be asked to deliver its findings at the end of 2006 in support of the release of the review of Mandatory Placement Policy outcomes for the first-year students of 2004.

The next Quality and Accountability Policy Group meeting will be July 10, 2006.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

James L. Applegate
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Jerry Ann Warmouth
Executive Secretary for Academic Affairs